



**Media Contact:** Terri Dixon  
LAGRANT COMMUNICATIONS  
323.469.8680, ext. 232  
[Terridixon@lagrant.com](mailto:Terridixon@lagrant.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The California African American Museum Celebrates the  
Work of Seven Black Los Angeles Photographers in the  
Exhibition *Light Catchers***

**LOS ANGELES (March 19, 2015)** The California African American Museum (CAAM) celebrates the life and artistic output of seven African American photographers in its latest photo exhibition *Light Catchers*, which opens Friday, March 20, 2015, and is followed with a reception and curatorial walk-through from noon to 2:30 p.m. The exhibition will be on view at CAAM through June 7, 2015.

Originally curated in 1997 by photographer Irene Fertik and funded by a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the exhibition includes 35 prints that will be added to CAAM's permanent collection, donated by Fertik.

"This is a unique opportunity for CAAM to share with our patrons a remarkable group of photographs that include some of the most relevant icons of the 20th century," said CAAM's Visual Arts Curator Mar Hollingsworth. "I am thrilled with Fertik's donation." Included in the 35 prints Fertik donated, are seven portraits she captured of the photographers in 1997.

The prints in the exhibition were captured by seven African American photographers who emerged during the 1940s, despite the repressions designed to keep blacks from equal opportunities. Photographers include Howard Bingham, Don Cropper, Jack Davis, Bob Douglas, Cliff Hall, Lamonte McLemore, and Murphy Ruffins who are known for their diverse array of talents and skills in photography, artwork, production, and publishing. Some of the photographers work has been published in African American and general market LA-based newspapers, in which some are still relevant and active today.

"My passion, heart and soul has been to document the Black experience in the most celebratory and positive way," says Fertik.

The photographers captured vivid moments in a time of well-known faces including a heartbroken Natalie Cole during her father Nat King Cole's funeral; an enthusiastic Michael Jackson, with his siblings Janet and Randy Jackson; in a rare display, the legendary Muhammad Ali flaunting money as he sits on \$1 million in a bank's cash vault; and Ali in a sports car with a very young Bill Cosby.

--more--

**PROGRAMS & EVENTS SPECIFIC TO *LIGHT CATCHERS*****Friday, March 20, 2015, Noon – 2 PM****Opening Reception and Curatorial Walk-Through**

Join CAAM for a unique opportunity to celebrate the life and work of the artists featured in this exhibition, including Howard Bingham, Cliff Hall and Lamonte McLemore, followed by a walk-through with curators Mar Hollingsworth and Irene Fertik. Additionally, McLemore will sign copies of his recently published biography *From Hobo Flats to The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension: A Life Fulfilled in Baseball, Photography and Music*.

**Saturday, May 2, 2015, 1 PM – 2:30 PM****Black Photographers in Los Angeles - A Legacy**

Dr. Jill Moniz, independent curator and Reginald Woolery, photographer and curator, will examine the history of Black photographers in Los Angeles, with a special emphasis on the seven whose work is on view in this exhibition.

**Current Exhibitions in the CAAM Galleries**

*CAAM Courtyard Series: From Women's Hands*, ongoing through May 3, 2015

*FlashTag*, Opening March 26 through August 2, 2015

*Lookin' Back in Front of Me: Selected Works of Mark Steven Greenfield, 1974-2014* ongoing through July 5, 2015

*The African American Journey West* (Permanent Collection) Ongoing

**ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of over 3,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents, CAAM also houses a research library containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling exhibitions on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

###